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Title: Need to introduce an Agricultural Insurance Scheme to compensate the farmers during calamities.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (KENDRAPARA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring the following matter for the consideration of hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Our farmers have to pay a heavy price on account of destruction of their agriculture and livestock. Frequent floods and droughts have rendered our farmers helpless and clueless. It destroys their standing crops and the livestock.

In order to earn their livelihood by way of investing in agriculture, farmers take loans at heavy interest from whatever sources they can. But frequent loss of crops and livestock made the farmers helpless and unable to repay their loans to the moneylenders. Suicides amongst the farmers have become the order of the day. Farmers have not only been victimized by natural calamities but also by the Government by not procuring their surplus produce.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to introduce an Agricultural Insurance Scheme to compensate the farmers during calamities. All crops should be covered under the Scheme instead of the present system of considering only selected crops. Similarly, instead of treating the block as a unit, panchayat should be treated as the basic unit for the purpose of insurance scheme. This step will go a long way in preventing the farmers from committing suicides.